

# STRIKE!

Volume 2 Number 3 (15)  
March 15, 1982  
35 cents

The Newspaper Dedicated to Direct Action

Second Class Mail Registration No. 5386

## Workers Battle Racist Regime

by: Brian Amesly

On February 5, Dr. Neil Aggett, a white trade union leader became the latest South African opponent of apartheid to be suicided. His death brought to an abrupt end the ordeal of having spent seventy days in solitary confinement within the prison system of the racist and fascist regime of Pieter Botha.

As is so often the case in acts of repression like these, his death backfired upon those responsible. By killing Dr. Aggett the regime made him an international martyr symbolizing the struggle to smash the apartheid system in South Africa. Not since the death of the black nationalist militant Stephen Biko, under similar circumstances, has there been such an outcry in response.

In less than a week, on February 11, close to 100,000 workers staged a half hour strike in protest. The following day some 1000 persons staged a public rally over the incident in Johannesburg. Then on the 13th, Dr. Aggett's funeral became a scene of intense expressions of grief and open defiance of the Botha regime involving 5000 people. White as well as black mourners were to be seen raising clenched fists in black power salutes.

### Multi-Racial Unity

This was but the latest display of multi-racial unity against the racist regime. It poses a profound challenge not only to Botha's rule but to the entire apartheid system and all

those who have a vested interest in it. Specifically, this includes the many multinational corporations who have extensive investments in South Africa and U.S. imperialism which relies upon South Africa in its global confrontation with the USSR.

The existing system in South Africa is of crucial importance to Western capital insofar as it secures tremendous investment opportunities. There is the built-in advantage of an already highly industrialized economy. South Africa also possesses an incredible abundance of natural resources and mineral wealth. On top of this the system of institutionalized racism is a means for super-exploitation of poorly paid non-white labour. The multi-nationals could hardly do better.

The future of South Africa is of no less importance to U.S. foreign policy. This has especially been the case since the defeat of Portuguese colonialism in 1974 and the subsequent victory of the pro-Soviet MPLA in Angola over U.S.-backed forces. These developments made South Africa the remaining bulwark against the spread of regimes more favourable to the U.S.S.R. than the U.S. Consequently, any overthrow of the apartheid regime by forces, unlike those of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe, hostile to the U.S. would constitute a potentially decisive opportunity for the extension and con-

solidation of Soviet-Cuban influence on the African continent.

### Beyond Nationalism

Nonetheless, the Soviets only stand to gain if the struggle is contained within the limitations of Black Nationalism or better still for them, Third World Marxism. In either case Western-based multi-national corporations could still do well as the continued investment by Gulf Oil in Angola has shown.

In contrast to these possibilities, a radical transformation of South African society propelled by its combative multi-racial working class would be irreconcilable with Soviet designs in the region, not to mention those of Western capital. No other conclusion is possible since the U.S.S.R. no less than the U.S. has shown time and again its eagerness to avoid such occurrences anywhere in the world.

Logically then, this is precisely what must be called for. With the proven social power of its working class South Africa is clearly where the potential for workers' revolution in Africa is most ripe. In fact, the rising tide of class struggle, fueled by acts of repression such as Dr. Aggett's "suicide", just might open up a whole new era in African history. One in which the struggle for freedom can go beyond black nationalism by putting workers' power on the historical agenda.



## Poland on Ice

By Lazarus Jones

When the Polish state imposed martial law last December 13 they scored a knockout punch on a cocky and unprepared opponent. Threats of imminent crackdowns had become so commonplace during the sixteen months of its existence that Solidarity had developed a dangerously unbridled contempt for the forces of law-n-order and an overblown sense of their ability to effectively meet an all-out challenge from the state. One old activist summed up this attitude this way: "They thought we already had a democracy," he said. "They forgot, they're too young. They forgot that the authorities can do anything they want to. They can declare — and that's just what they did." (*Globe and Mail*, 2/1/82).

The attitude bemoaned by this activist was epitomized by the reaction of aides to Jan Kulaj, chairperson of Rural Solidarity, when his car was stopped by soldiers in the early morning hours following the crackdown. To the astonishment of the troops the aides demanded that the road be cleared immediately, to allow the passage of the distinguished chairperson. Quickly recovering from their initial shock the soldiers unceremoniously arrested the lot of them.

But, in the months that followed, this reckless innocence gave way to a cold and calculating fury best expressed in the popular slogan, "the winter is yours, the spring will be ours." Slowly and carefully an underground Solidarity is being formed from the wreckage. As the bureaucrats nervously wait for the ice to break the people of Poland are preparing for the climactic challenge to the rule of the party/state.

Two months after the declaration

of martial law the army still felt it had to send armoured columns clanking through the cities of Poland in a crude show of force designed to discourage those who might have the temerity to use the upcoming anniversary to launch protest demonstrations. Like much else in Poland these days — it didn't work. Demonstrations broke out in several cities with hundreds of arrests in Gdansk where protesters gathered in the shadow of the massive monument to the workers butchered in 1970. Less than a week later a massive sweep, code named 'Operation Calm' rounded up thousands of violators of martial law regulations. Some 3,500 people were dragooned to police stations for questioning while 7,000 were issued summons to appear in court. The aptly named Polish news agency, PAP, reported that a further 145,000 people were warned and 25,000 were 'reminded of their duties' during the crackdown. The necessity for such widespread intimidation after two months of martial law is an indicator of the depth of popular resistance and the manifest inability of the government to use anything other than brute force to engender respect.

### The Party

With Poland's industries lurching along at a snail's pace in the face of massive slowdowns and systematic sabotage the first glimmers of panic at the top can be discerned. On February 20 Poland's rulers announced that the central committee of the party would meet the following Wednesday for the first time since the imposition of martial law. The bruised

See Poland p.8

## Rene Levesque: It's My Party . . .

by: Tom Marick

The Parti Quebecois regime is looking a bit shaky of late. First a party convention overrules the premier's gradualist strategy for social reform. And now the party establishment has conducted an internal referendum which contradicts the convention's adopted policy. So the national question is being debated with renewed vigor.

The roots of this debate are founded on the presence of unequal nations in Canada. This inequality arose due to the earlier industrialization of English Canada relative to Quebec. This conflict was crystallized after Confederation in 1867 granted Canada political independence.

Within Quebec the class war was endowed with an immediacy by this national antagonism. Acute divisions developed in the establishment such that the private sector, small, French-speaking capitalists called for legally entrenched cultural rights such as language and religion. Public sector French-speaking technocrats rallied for exclusive taxation and foreign policy rights in etapist fashion. Organized French-speaking workers on the other hand agitated directly for the elimination of the pan-Canadian state machine which enforced discriminatory employment policies.



Louise Cuerrier looks over a pile of the incoming ballots.

With the election of the Parti Quebecois French-speaking technocrats were able to pursue their objective of increased public sector initiatives by encouraging populist mobilizations for revised fiscal policy arrangements. The electoral success of this party was aided by a workers' movement unable to distance itself from the middle class because of the

Pan-Canadian state's armed intervention in 1970 which isolated the left thereby encouraging Leninism and stunting mass organizations outside the Parti Quebecois.

However the very rise to power of the Parti Quebecois has intensified

See Quebec p.3



# LETTERS TO STRIKE!

## For the Record

STRIKE!

Among papers associated with the anti-authoritarian left and ultra-left, you run a close race with **Open Road** and the **Industrial Worker** (not all dinosaurs are extinct) for the least interesting and imaginative, as well as the least critical, paper. However, I did manage to read some of the January issue and found myself rather irked by some of it.

First I'd like to deal with a couple of letters in the issue, that of Rochelle Semel and that of Jake Edwards, Georgene McKown, Andrea Barker as the opinions of individual writers. I was a member of the IWW from May 1979 until January 1981 when I told them to remove my name from their membership. In this time, I participated as much as possible under the circumstances I had to deal with. However, I had reservations about the IWW from the time I read its constitution. There seemed to be some authoritarian aspects to it.

After the 1980 convention I started thinking about examining both the constitution and my involvement in the IWW as well as looking at the sorts of activities they reported sympathetically in the **IW** or that the organization participated in themselves. My examination indicated that the focus of activity for the IWW was traditional union activity *within* the capitalist system.

Furthermore, I could not get around the authoritarian nature of the General Executive Board and the office of General Secretary Treasurer. It became evident to me that the society advocated by the IWW was not one in which people control their own lives; rather "their" organization controlled their lives disciplining them to continue doing the same jobs they had always done but now in the name of the workers.

I realized that my own involvement with the IWW was based on a kind of unconscious self-deception. With the coming of this realization, I left.

The IWW is nothing more than a bad attempt at an industrial union that cannot succeed because of its pretense to being a revolutionary organization. Unions cannot be revolutionary and the attempt to make them so leads to half-baked "revolutionary" theory and ineffective, reformist practice.

It is in your uncritical acceptance of radical union activity as potentially or actually revolutionary that I have to take issue with. This becomes most evident in your coverage of the situation in Poland. You are guilty of the same opportunistic dishonesty as every anti-Moscow leftist group, the Libertarian Party and Reagan himself.

First you make the resistance sound like the activity of an organization, Solidarity, rather than of people who at times used the union and at times defied it. Then you make the struggle appear to have a single unified goal; *anarchism* (not anarchy, because it is obviously the rule of apolitical ideology that you seek and not free human community). This is most blatant in the disgusting statement by the Anarchist Groups of Montreal. If the Polish government saw its mirror image in Solidarity it's because it was there. Solidarity had a centralized authority and a good deal of the workers' struggle had to take place in defiance of Solidarity.

Had Walesa called for an end to strikes against martial law, the joke of unionism as a way of struggle would've become all too evident. Walesa would have lost any respect he had and strikes and resistance would have spread in an unprecedented manner. Walesa didn't want that; it would have destroyed his precious baby, Solidarity.

As to the goals of the resistance, they vary greatly. While there are certainly some people with specifically anti-authoritarian goals there are also many Polish nationalists, social democrats and people who want a liberalized Polish "socialist" system. While we should be against martial law (all laws for that matter) in Poland, and should recognize and support every positive act of resistance to authority there, it's pure opportunism to claim that such a diverse movement is undertaking an anarchist revolution.

I think that the real nature of Solidarity, and of all unions, was made clear by Jan Litynski of KOR when he said, "Solidarity is the only thing keeping this country from ripping itself apart, from descending into ... anarchy." Kuron concurred with this, pointing out that government recognition of a free trade union was necessary to bring the economic crisis under control. In other words, the union is nothing more than a way of chan-

# For Starters

With this issue of **STRIKE!** two important new steps have been taken. One is to change the caption on the **STRIKE!** banner back to the one we had on the **North American Anarchist** which is "The Newspaper Dedicated to Direct Action". This move was in response to the results of a poll we took among regular readers and distributors which heavily favoured the change.

Our other, related change is to list the **STRIKE! Network**. The SN consists of a listing of groups/individuals who distribute the newspaper in their area and who will be involved in making important decisions affecting **STRIKE!**. The SN is open to anyone who feels they are generally in favour of the politics of **STRIKE!** and willing to offer active support of the paper according to their ability to do so. To better facilitate this we in the **STRIKE! Collective** are giving consideration to a suggestion to work out a short statement of principles to clarify where we stand. This will involve those already in the SN.

Last issue many of you probably noted the discrepancy between our decrying our inability to get a Second Class Mailing Permit and the listing of a permit number on the banner. This occurred because we received word from the Post Office granting us the permit just as we were completing production of the issue.

We mistakenly saw this as a real shot in the arm for **STRIKE!** In actual fact the resulting difference in mailing costs proved negligible. This was both a moral and financial setback for us to which we can only respond by crying *help!*

So far this year we have decided against printing three articles submitted to us due to wholly irreconcilable political differences with their contents. This illustrates the fact that even though we want **STRIKE!** to be more of a 'movement' paper than the **North American Anarchist** was this does not mean that just anything we receive will be printed simply because the author claims to be either an anarchist or a libertarian communist.

This does not mean we are closing the door. To the contrary we have been more than happy to use almost all of the articles sent to us from persons neither directly involved in **STRIKE!** nor having had a close working relationship us in the past.

Finally, we'd like to welcome the publication of the first issue of **Idea & Action** which is a new, bi-monthly, anarcho-syndicalist theoretical bulletin. While **STRIKE!** isn't an anarcho-syndicalist newspaper per se we still believe **Idea & Action** will make an important contribution to evolving libertarian theory here in North America. Similarly, we think it nicely complements the exemplary work which continues to be done by the Montreal-based journal **Our Generation**.

We urge persons concerned about the need to develop a body of well-defined, contemporary, libertarian theory to give their full support to **Idea & Action**. It is available by writing to: **Idea & Action**, P.O. Box 40400, San Francisco, California 94110. Please include a donation.

neling the workers' struggles into controllable forms, forms that make the struggle acceptable to authority. Solidarity's inability to keep the struggle within its control is what forced the imposition of martial law in Poland.

The IWW, the CNT and Solidarity like other unions are not nor have they ever been instruments of workers' autonomy. Rather, they are instruments of mediation and representation which act for the workers and so reinforce their passivity.

As long as workers keep putting their executive powers into the hands of unions and workers' organizations they will remain workers which is to say a class of the capitalist system. The only strike they ever know is the strike which, no matter how widespread or "general", ends with their return to the factories, plants, offices and farms to do the same work as before — the drudgery doesn't change just because its self-managed.

The only strike that can be revolutionary is the strike that never ends, that abolishes work as we know it forever, where no one ever returns to the factories, offices or plants. No union can ever stage such a strike because every union has as its duty to protect, first, labour and, then, capital. Revolution will abolish both.

David N. DeVores  
719 Ashbury St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94117  
(Correspondence Invited)

## Fighting Spirit

Dear **Strike!** Collective,

Thank you for your new publication. I wholeheartedly agree with your spirit and am fully behind our struggle to create a society of worker autonomy minus the hierarchy.

Recently I read several issues back to back of the **NAA** and **STRIKE!** — it certainly bolstered my spirits and sent me into the day fighting. I have faith in your continued efforts.

Solidarity,

Karen L. Topakian  
Jamestown  
Rhode Island



## Nothing But The Facts

Dear **STRIKE!**

**STRIKE!** is really good. I especially appreciate your balanced and objective style of journalism which avoids 'telling the reader what to think' as well as your reliance on facts to support important emotional conclusions.

The article on Carl Harp was brilliant (although it made me cry) and somehow his memory is linked to an important new verb: 'suicided.'

Please continue to be one of the few journals which supports both the U.S. Air Traffic Controllers and the Polish workers.

Love  
Bob Katz  
Toronto  
Ontario

## Clearly Inflammatory

*And finally, **STRIKE!** learned from a prisoner friend incarcerated in the Pennsylvania penal system that he is forbidden to receive our paper. Under the terms of the state's Department of Justice **STRIKE!** falls within the terms of a provision banning publications deemed to be:*

"Clearly inflammatory writings advocating violence, insurrection or guerilla warfare against the government of any of its institutions." We ask our readers to judge for themselves.

## STRIKE! NETWORK CANADA

**STRIKE!**, P.O. Box 284, Main Station, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6T7

**AUTONOMY COLLECTIVE**, 200 Holton Ave. S., Hamilton, Ontario L8M 2L7

**TORONTO ANARCHIST GROUP**, P.O. Box 571, Station P, Toronto, Ontario

**PETERBOROUGH ANARCHIST AGENCY**, P.O. Box 2144, Peterborough, Ontario

**ANARCHO-PACIFIC DISTRIBUTORS**, P.O. Box 34453, Station D, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4W4

## UNITED STATES

**LIBERTARIAN WORKERS GROUP**, P.O. Box 692, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10113

**MARK FARRIS**, 3090 Heiss Rd., Monroe, Michigan 48161

**L.E.A.F.**, P.O. Box 18488, Denver, Colorado 80218

**DANDY-JINXSPARX GRAPHICS**, 316 Blair Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97402

**EAST BAY ANARCHIST GROUP**, 328 Hanover Ave., Oakland, California 94606

Individuals and groups listed in the **STRIKE! NETWORK** are recognized distributors of the newspaper in their area. Participation involves being consulted on all major decisions concerning the publication of **STRIKE!** and is premised upon active support of the newspaper. Anyone wishing to become part of the network is invited to contact us at the St. Catharines address.

## STRIKE! Notes:

**STRIKE!** is published ten times a year, skipping a month in January and August, by the **STRIKE!** Publishing Association and is a member newspaper of the **Alternate Press Syndicate**.

**STRIKE!** is an independent journal of Anarchist and Libertarian Communist news and opinion dedicated to the principles of direct action and self-management.

Back issues of **STRIKE!** and its predecessor the **North American Anarchist** are available at our regular price per copy.

ISSN 0712-1539

## Comix:





# Montreal Transit: Strike Struck Down

MONTREAL — With the brutal smashing of Montreal's five-day transit strike the Parti Quebecois (PQ) has burned its social-democratic bridges and opted for the brute-force strategy of dealing with working class resistance to government enforced austerity measures. The strike, and the way it was handled by the PQ government, are a clear indication of things to come. But, more importantly, the strike graphically revealed that the present mechanisms of worker's self-defense, the trade unions, are almost completely incapable of meeting this challenge in their present form. As union spokesperson Pierre Bonenfant put it, in reference to the government's threats of selective firings and decertification of the striking unions, "You cannot go to war with a water pistol with an enemy who has an atomic bomb."

To some within the union movement the answer to this imbalance of forces is the formation of a new "workers" political party to fight it out with the PQ in the electoral arena. To others this is a sterile and diversionary tactic which has proved utterly worthless in practice. They call instead for workers to rely on their own means by deploying the ultimate weapon in the class war — direct action and class-wide solidarity.

The transit strike began shortly after midnight on January 15 when the maintenance workers decided to walk out two days ahead of schedule after the government threatened to introduce legislation banning any transit strike. The maintenance workers are by far the most militant of the three transit unions. The union's president, Jacques Morrisette, openly acknowledges his membership in a Trotskyist group and management's clumsy attempts at red-baiting have been totally fruitless. The walkout by the maintenance workers was immediately followed by a management lockout of the transit commission's bus drivers and office workers. The eighth Montreal transit strike in eight years had begun.

With this oft repeated call for a "workers'" party Morrisette and the maintenance union's executive tried to put the best face on this disastrous strike and the fact that it had been an almost total failure. Instead of confronting the reality of that defeat, and the reasons for it, they attempted to divert the workers' rage and frustration into reformist electoral activity. The union members who roared their approval of this initiative seemed unaware of the irony involved in an avowed Marxist-Leninist calling for the formation of a "workers'" party at the same time as the Polish "workers'" state was gunning down strikers and smashing unions. Morrisette and the union members who supported his call for a "workers'" party forget that workers' rights are not born in parliaments or the programs of political parties. They are won in the streets and the factories by work-

ers who refuse to acquiesce to the demands of the State and Capital.

Instead of putting their fate in the hands of a new gang of politicians the transit workers would be better advised to examine the strategy of their union's leadership both before and during the strike. The unions have known since at least November that a mid-winter strike was almost inevitable. Despite this absolutely no effort was made to distribute leaflets or otherwise communicate the union's position to the public. Neither was any thought given to creative alternatives to a straight withdrawal of labour such as the social strike where workers remain on the job but provide their services free to the public. Instead of adopting the social strike and demonstrating the utter dispensability of management they confined themselves to calling for the resignation of the hated transit commissioner Lawrence Hanigan — as if replacing commissioner Tweedledum with commissioner Tweedledee would make any real difference. And, in a move as mean-spirited as it was stupid, the unions refused to maintain the special services for the elderly and the handicapped — a decision that provided poison-pen editorialists with deadly ammunition.

That very day the PQ brought in draconian back-to-work legislation that provided for \$1 million a day in fines to the unions and their mem-



bers. Shortly afterwards the locked out drivers and office workers voted to join the maintenance workers on strike. All three unions enthusiastically voted to defy the PQ back-to-work order and the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU), the most militant of the three Quebec labour federations, pledged its \$5 million strike fund to the struggle.

In the days that followed the government, backed by massive public resentment at having to struggle to work without public transit in record-breaking cold weather, steadily escalated the conflict. Rumours of imminent Reaganesque solutions to the crisis were rife and on the eve of a special session of parliament, convened to deal with the union's refusal to return to work, Premier

Levesque ominously declared that "if the decisions of a democratic parliament aren't respected, we're moving toward anarchy. If the Government has to go further, it will be much further."

Faced with this tremendous pressure the bus drivers and office workers capitulated on January 20 and voted to return to work. With parliament scheduled to meet at 8 o'clock to draft new and even more vicious strike-breaking legislation (the exact nature of which was never revealed) the maintenance workers, in a last act of defiance, scheduled their own meeting to discuss the return to work for the exact same time. At that meeting a bitter Morrisette, denouncing the "terrorist" campaign against the unions, recommended a return to work as the only option in the face of massive government repression. The union executive then asked and received from the assembled membership a mandate to start work on a provincial labour party based on the three Quebec union federations.

Cooperation between the three striking unions before the strike was minimal and during the strike they each went their separate ways. Rather than recognizing that they were in a common fight and pooling their resources and convening a general assembly of all strikers they maintained their craft divisions. The general trade union movement, except for the CNTU which pledged its strike fund, was conspicuous by its absence. Even the CNTU, rather than organizing a general strike against a blatant assault on workers' rights, merely confined itself to guaranteeing the government its \$1 million a day blood money — for five days at least.

With a hostile public and a generally apathetic trade union movement the transit workers were easily isolated and crushed. If this defeat is not to be repeated when the contracts of over 300,000 Quebec civil service employees come up for renewal this fall union militants will have to do some very heavy thinking on the viability of conventional trade union tactics in a period when government and employers are determined to roll back decades of working class gains. This class assault will have to be met with a class-wide defense that both transcends petty craft divisions and is capable of resisting the siren song of those who would use the workers' struggle to advance their own political ambitions.

The Montreal transit strike presents in stark relief the choices facing the Canadian working class in the present crisis. Will they continue to play the boss's game by confining themselves to a politics defined in terms of ballot boxes and political parties and a trade unionism mired in reformism and an inordinate respect for the boss's rules? Or, will they unite in revolutionary combination, relying on their own means, to beat back the boss's offensive and launch their own counter-attack?

could be accentuated by finance minister Parizeau's newly planned taxation measures which are aimed at the union movement.

Already Premier Levesque is experiencing problems with his party's 'left'. The Premier himself has estimated a loss of 10,000 militants from the party as a result of their dissatisfaction with his gradualist strategy. We may soon witness therefore a unification of the Parti Quebecois left with the contemporary working class, extra-parliamentary opposition in Quebec.

The implications of a renewed unified workers' movement for indepen-

dence in Quebec will be felt far beyond that nation's borders. By their mounting such a challenge to the state machine in Canada the forces combatting sexism, pollution and capitalist life by proxy in general may be able to occupy new ground and more closely unify the tendency for independence and socialism. Given that the strongest link between these tendencies has been the union movements we can probably look for new unionization opportunities in this period. This will remain a possibility as long as strikes to pacify the state's interventions continue to be an option. And that promises to be for a while yet.



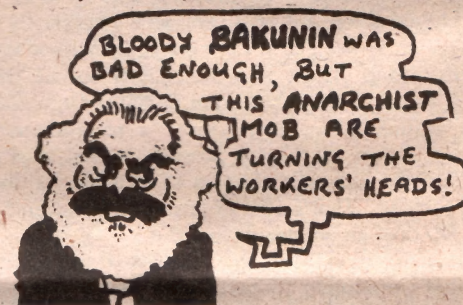
## FOR AN ANARCHIST MAY DAY

For the last 10 years, the three major trade union federations have organised May Day demonstrations and celebrations in the streets of Montreal and other cities of Quebec. The Quebec Federation of Labour, the Confederation of National Trade Unions, and the Quebec Teachers Central have brought out thousands of working people together in solidarity. During the demonstrations the various citizens groups — from tenant associations to welfare rights groups — have also joined in. The number of people participating has varied from 10,000 to 30,000 depending on what day of the week May Day occurs. Needless to say the political left also is present in all of its factional colours. In Montreal, the largest contingents from the political left, so far, have been the Marxist-Leninists. In recent years, these organisations have reached their plateau, and have now begun their decline. But May Day is always a show of strength for the Left.

For the last five years, the Montreal anarchists have also had a contingent in the May Day demonstration. We have used the occasion to celebrate a different kind of May Day, reminding all of the true origins of this celebration. The anarchists have also used the occasion to give out thousands of copies of their popular newspaper *La Nuit*.

This year, May Day is on a Saturday, and the Montreal anarchists are planning activities around the event. Certainly the demonstration will be a large one. We are taking this occasion to invite all anarchists and anarcho-syndicalists from across North America to join us in Montreal to demonstrate and to also take the opportunity to talk about our growing movement. While various activities, apart from the demonstration are still being discussed we would like to have the largest possible contingent this year. May there be many Black, and Red and Black flags flying in Montreal, the only North American city that has a major May Day demonstration. All are welcome.

The May Day organizational committee can be reached at Librarie ALTERNATIVE Bookshop, 2033 St. Laurent Boulevard, Montreal, or (514) 844-3207. See you in May!



## Our Generation

Twenty years of solid writing by leading thinkers, authors and activists of our time. And still going. Ideas for social change. Facts for freedom.

**Our Generation** offers critical, thoroughly researched articles with a radical analysis, linking practical experience to ideas, theory to day-to-day work. Discussions of the urban crisis. Community organizing in the neighbourhoods. Anarchism and libertarian socialism. Social ecology. Feminism and its future. Workplace democracy and the crisis of the labour movement. All in Canada's largest circulation quarterly.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**Subscription Rates:** One year (four issues) \$10.00, two years \$18.00. Send \$3.00 for current issue, *Our Generation*, 3981 Boul. St. Laurent, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 1Y5.

## Quebec

continued from p. 1  
the hostility of French-speaking workers to public sector technocrats because fiscal policy restraint measures have thus far favoured the middle class. The technocrats' theory of the state as economic administration has been endangered by inflationary wage demands and increases in the employment rate even in light of full capital mobilization. Witness the calls for workers' independence from the Parti Quebecois in the wake of Reagan style strike-breaking by the PQ regime in the Montreal transit system wildcat strike this year. This class division



# Mixed-Media

## Don't Bank on it Rollover



by: Tom Marick

*Rollover* is a bomb. One of Jane Fonda's most recent outings, this big screen bust fails both in style and substance. The plotline is thin and the concept is racist.

The movie continues the long string of 'what if' conspiracy capers currently pouring out of Hollywood. In the tradition of such fizzled films as *Wild in the Streets* and *In Like Flint* this particular effort relies on cheap stereotypes to put across an implausible message believable only by mouth breathers.

*Rollover* tells the story of a New York bank with large debts which is heavily leveraged into a few Arab depositors. The manager of the bank tries to prevent its failure by arranging a loan for Fonda hoping that his commission will keep his own venture solvent a while longer. However he doesn't reckon with a colossal plot by the Arabs to destroy the world credit system and plunge the 'free' world into a new dark age. It seems that the small band of oil rich sheikhs are not rolling over or reinvesting their money but instead calling in their deposits as the given interest period expires. All the over extended banks then collapse. What drivel.

This cinematic flop fails to explore any motivations for the behavior of the Arab investors. More importantly it portrays the Arab public in an alien vein and unjustly imputes to them especially sexist tendencies. They are depicted as beings who typically deal out of desert tents and generally refuse to socialize with women even at dinner.

The real issue however lies elsewhere. Consider that the United States is a world imperialist authority. Remember also that the Reagan administration is preparing a war drive which includes plans to 'secure' the middle east oil fields by means of the Rapid Deployment Force troops operating in concert with the Mediterranean and Pacific fleets. And note well the exaggerated power this film attributes to Arab financial interests vis a vis the U.S. industrial complex. Taken together these observations suggest that *Rollover* engages in the worst sort of chauvinism and appeals to a most reactionary sentiment in the American public.

All in all this movie is a garbled artistic expression of the hawkish mood prevailing in some quarters of the United States establishment. And it's a shame to see Jane Fonda pandering to these interests. But to sum up on a positive note by all indications *Rollover* has gone over like a lead balloon at the box office. This augurs well for those hoping that such displays will not command an audience either in the arts or the society at large.

### Revolution Re-Assessed The Politics of Human Liberation

Libertarian Socialist Organisation, 1981, 52 p.p., \$1.50

*Revolution Re-Assessed* is the second pamphlet produced by the Libertarian Socialist Organisation, an Australian based Anarchist group. Their first effort, *You Can't Blow Up A Social Relationship: The Anarchist Case Against Terrorism* (reviewed in *STRIKE!* 1:1) was an important contribution to the debate on terrorism, selling out its first press run of 2000 copies. Their second pamphlet should prove to be equally important in the renewed debate on Anarchism and revolutionary organization.

*Revolution Re-Assessed* is divided into four sections: Direct Democracy Not Representative Democracy; The Role of a Revolutionary Organisation; Internal Democracy and lastly a re-worked version of *As We See It* the basic statement of the British Solidarity group. These four statements outline the basic political position of the Libertarian Socialist Organisation and were written in the belief that "a revolutionary movement should outline, as fully as possible, its vision of a future society and the means it chooses to struggle for the creation of this society". That's a lot of ground to cover in 52 pages but the LSO does an admirable job of it.

The first section on direct democracy sticks to the essentials: workers' and community councils, the illusion of representative democracy and the need for power to remain at the base. They are unclear on how the functions of workers' and community councils are to be delineated and their belief that some form of market economy is the only alternative to bureaucratic planning or the free storehouse is open to challenge but, generally the section is well done. The sections on the role of a revolutionary organization and internal democracy are gems of common sense and simplicity and are recommended reading for all Anarchists.

*Revolution Re-Assessed* can be ordered from the LSO, P.O. Box 223, Broadway 4000, Queensland, Australia. They ask that people consider ordering multiple copies and sending concealed cash rather than cheques as these are difficult to negotiate. There is a 33 percent discount for bulk orders.

Lazarus Jones



## A European Ex Dismar

by: Tony Powell

On February 1st a broad coalition of anti-nuclear groups protested at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories near Berkely, California. About 170 boycotters were arrested, among them was Anti-Viet Nam war activist Daniel Ellsberg.

The main function of the coalition, the Livermore Action Group, is to press for the conversion of the present nuclear weapons lab to peaceful, socially useful research. The article below, reprinted from *Newsfront International* and translated from the Italian daily, *Il Manifesto*, Sept. 28, 1981, points in a direction which needs to be pursued.

It must be noted that in the European case presented here the motivation to change war industry to peace industry came from the workers within the industrial complex itself. Such is not the case at Livermore where pressure for alternatives is coming from without.

The workers at LLNL, as privileged technocrats do not seem to be having a hard time, either morally or monetarily, doing their job. Perhaps their attitudes will change spurred on by the actions of the non-violent demonstrators. We hope so.

*What can workers in a crisis-ridden industry, threatened by massive layoffs, do to save their jobs? What can they do when they work in an industry that primarily produces armaments? The workers at Lucas Aerospace, a British producer of mechanical and electrical systems and auto parts, which is controlled by the transnational Lucas Industries, have come up with an answer.*

*In the past several years, Lucas Aerospace workers have developed an "alternative plan" for producing socially useful products in place of military goods. The plan emerged from the Combined Shop Stewards Committee of Lucas Aerospace, a typical horizontal structure of the British movement, uniting representatives of 18 factories and 13 trades working for Lucas.*

## Touching

VANCOUVER, BC- What's red and white and seen all over?

Government departments apparently aren't the only ones to stand on guard under the 11-point maple leaf flag. But only when someone used the Canadian flag for unauthorized (i.e. non-commercial and non-governmental) purposes did the government let on that the thing is a trademark.

The controversy unfurled when three Vancouver artists set up a mock Civil Defence Information Centre for two weeks in a converted art gallery to demonstrate the utter futility of trying to survive a nuclear war.

They built a sandbagged bomb shelter as cozy as Mom and Dad's summer cottage. (Where else would you want to spend the last two weeks of your life?) They drew huge wall posters parodying the civil defence manual's 11 steps to survival. (Step 7: "Treatment After the Blast," was a poster illustrating four methods of suicide.) They displayed artwork and photos and showed video, films and slides. And, they used the Canadian flag to publicize their direct attack on the government's commitment to planning for war. It seemed appropriate enough, since they were citizens concerned with survival.

The flag symbol had an immediate impact. Not only did members of the general public come in response to its guise of authority (they used the half-flag federal government logo on their program and press.

## FATIGUE

I'm tired of this machine  
Why do I keep having these illusions  
that it's mine. . . .  
It's this god-damn factory  
I've been here too long

It's a game I play with myself  
Just to make it through the day  
Sitting on my behind  
Ten years seem like  
a life time

I'm tired of this machine  
It ain't mine  
My sewing machine  
ain't advertised  
in the Daily News  
and You can't order  
it from Klein's

It doesn't feature  
twin needles -  
or a two speed motor  
with pushbutton reverse  
With gadgets like that  
I wouldn't have these varicose veins  
And those horrible pains  
in my neck

This machine has one operation  
It does one stitch instead of twelve  
I'm tired of this machine  
And the foreman on my back  
Whispering shit in my ear  
that even a young woman  
wouldn't want to hear

I'm sick of being called "bitch"  
And raped in somebody's mind  
a hundred times a day.

I think I'll stop this machine  
Take a survey on this floor  
Find out how many women  
Think like me . . . every day  
They walk in and out  
that door

I'm tired of this machine  
I'm not having illusions  
anymore

That woman over there!  
I've seen her before  
She tried to organize  
this floor

The foreman got a whiff  
And threatened to  
lay her off right quick!

Things might have been different  
if we had of listen  
to her head

Probably  
Bertha  
and Maria Ruiz  
Wouldn't be dead. . . . .

R. Mealy-Whitehorne



# ample: ntling the War Machine



Mike Cooley was a leader of the Combined Committee. Last summer he was laid off by Lucas management because of his part in the alternative production plan. In the time since then he has been awarded an "alternative Nobel Prize" by a Swedish foundation seeking to reward "research into concrete solutions for the world's problems," a group critical of the abstract and academic orientations of the official Nobel prizes.

In the following interview, Mike Cooley discusses his experience at Lucas, and what lessons both the labour and the peace movements might draw from it.

**Q: First of all, what is Lucas Aerospace?**

**A:** It's an aerospace firm specializing in precision mechanics. It produces

electrical generators, ignition and combustion systems and flight control equipment. Over half of its production is military. Lucas is involved in the construction of the joint British-French Jaguar and Multi-role aircraft. Today Lucas employs nearly 13,000 workers (a third less than in 1970) including 2000 engineers, designers and technicians.

**Q: How did the idea of the alternative plan for Lucas develop?**

**A:** The idea of developing alternative products utilizing Lucas' know-how and productive capacity arose in the face of the monopolistic processes of restructuring and concentration of the 1970's. The alternative plan took form in 1974, with the encouragement of Tony Benn, then Minister of Industry. A refined version was pres-

ented in January 1976 composed of five 200 page volumes illustrating the designs for over 150 new products, including outlines for the organization of their production.

The alternative products were developed in six different sectors: transport systems ("hybrid" motors using combustion and electricity, road and rail vehicles); braking systems (dynamometer braking for buses); telemotor systems (capable of carrying out complex operations in mines or underwater, controlled from a distance); health equipment (renal hemodialysis machines); alternative energy (solar panels, windmills, gaseous fuels, household heating systems); and oceanic (components for oil platforms and submarine equipment).

Some of these products are not "economical" in capitalist terms, but others, like the motor and heat pumps, can be built very well and compete on the market. As for the

health equipment, considerations of economic viability can only be approached on the grounds of existing social need.

**Q: Then the plan is more than a simple reconversion proposal?**

**A:** Absolutely. We not only want to find alternatives to the production of weapons, but we also want to identify unsatisfied social needs. We want a production technology that uses low levels of energy and primary materials, one which does not subject the workers to the control and rhythm of the machines. It is a program that rejects the logic of profit and seeks to develop on "economy of needs", substituting use value for exchange value.

**Q: What is the importance of the alternative plan for the prospects of converting war industries to peace industries, and for the peace and disarmament movement in Europe?**

**A:** For the first time, we have given concrete and practical examples of alternative products. This is of critical importance, because workers in military industries are faced with a dilemma: if you stop the production of weapons, you lose your job. On this point the peace movement in England has been unable to go beyond moral appeals. I have nothing against moral appeals, but for the workers that's not enough.

Then too, it's interesting to see how far the peace movement itself is conditioned by capitalist logic. Many realize that a cut in military spending means a freeing up of material resources, usable for building schools, hospitals, and so on. But they don't realize that it also represents an enormous liberation of human resources and skills.

The scientific and technical capacities of those working in armament production represent an enormous social wealth, which can be committed to producing things that are socially useful. We have shown this is possible. We have developed these products in a way to make them propaganda tools. We have built a bus that can travel on rails or on roads; inside it we show video-tapes, and reach people in a way never before possible.

**Q: Where was this train-bus built?**

**A:** The individual parts were produced by Lucas workers, and the vehicle was assembled at the North-east London Polytechnic where the Center for Industrial and Technological Alternative Systems has been established. There, academics and workers work together in a rather dialectical relationship, combining abstract analysis with concrete production.

**Q: What are the prospects for a generalization of the military re-conversion proposals?**

**A:** Much is being done here in England. The combined Committee at Vickers (another giant British war industry) is working with the Campaign for European Nuclear Disarmament on the possibility of diversification. They have pinpointed excellent areas for developing marine technology that involves the use of tides and the production of underwater and ocean transport. Alternatives to arms production are also being discussed among delegates from the British Aircraft Corporation. These include machine tools, agricultural and health equipment, including equipment for the disabled.

We are also developing international contacts in Sweden, West Germany, France and Italy. A conference on the problems of reconverting war industries is planning to be held in Milan.

## Barcelona Appeals

**E.R.A.T. HUNGER STRIKER, MANUEL CRUZ CABALEIRO, IN SERIOUS CONDITION...**

The Association of Family and Friends of Political Prisoners (AFAPP) decries the predicament of Manuel Cruz Cabaleiro, without food since Jan. 1, 1982 and now lying close to death, with no special attention, in the infirmary of the "Model Prison" in Barcelona. This comrade is protesting his indefinite consignment to the Model Prison's 5th Gallery (a punishment block), where isolation is so extreme that news of the strike became known no sooner than 25 days after it had begun. At present, hunger strikes are the only option that prisoners in struggle have available, but without solidarity on the outside their effect is undermined — witness the case of Juan José Crespo Galendé, who died on Jun 19, 1981 in the Carabanchel Penitentiary after 98 days without eating. We must not allow the State to follow suit with Cruz Cabaleiro. The communications media, political parties, and other groups are silent about and collaborate with the current wave of repression crashing down on prisoners and outsiders alike. Faced with this situation we launch an urgent and energetic appeal to the Spanish people and to all movements in struggle against repression, to act on Manuel Cruz Cabaleiro's behalf. Letters, telegrams, and demonstrations of support at seats of Spanish officialdom in other countries, coupled with our struggle here in Spain, is the only way to save this and other prisoners' lives.

Solidarity with prison struggles! Abolish the anti-terrorist ("Citizen Security") Law! Full and Unconditional Amnesty! — Feb. 6, 1982, A.F.A.P.P., Ronda de Sant Pere, 32, 1er. E, Barcelona - 10, Spain

*Tr. note:* E.R.A.T. is the Spanish acronym for *Revolutionary Army in Support of the Workers*, six of whose members, all employees of the company S.E.A.T., were sentenced to long jail terms in 1980.

## a Sensitive Nerve

releases), but several media outlets reacted by phoning the federal Emergency Planning office.

Officials there were furious — obviously the artists succeeded in touching a sensitive nerve. Left with no other way to retaliate, they went for the absurd. They called out the Justice Department to dust off the section of the Trademark Act referring to the flag, and the artists received a letter threatening legal action.

Since the Civil Defence Information Centre was not selling wares or

or services, they felt somewhat unjustly singled out. However, their hearts didn't glow sufficiently to take the flag to court, so they obliged by defacing the offensive symbol on their information leaflets.

For that matter, the centre's whole perspective was that the only way to prevent our hearts from glowing permanently after some future nuclear disaster is to act now against nuclear madness. The safety and comfort of civil defense is one myth they feel we can live without.

According to the centre's brochure: "Traditional civil defence measures focus our energy on the effects of war rather than the causes. No one can win a nuclear war and no one can survive one.

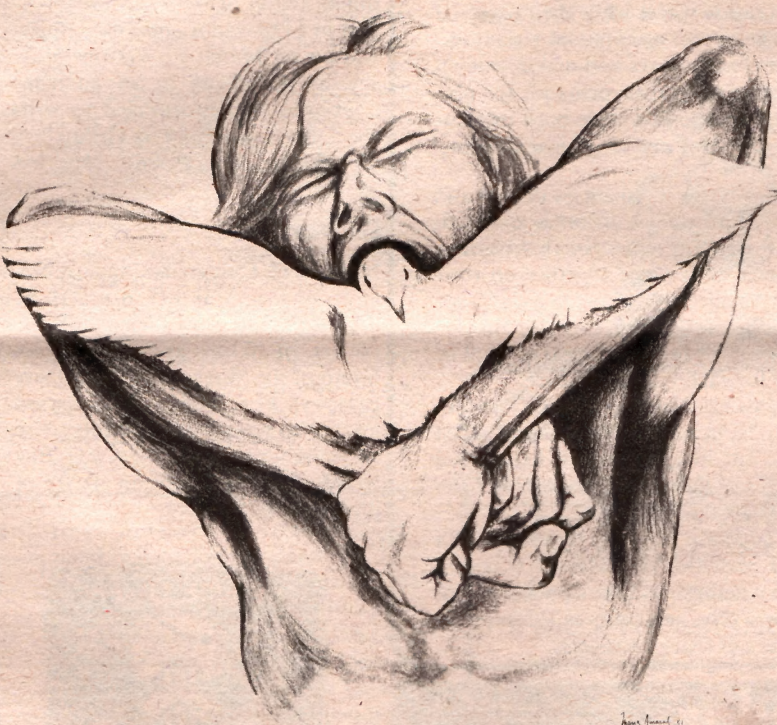
Just as uranium mining and atomic weaponry are linked, so are strategies for survival, ranging from the fight against the mining of uranium to the fight for universal nuclear disarmament.

As long as governments continue to convince us that we can wage and survive a nuclear war, the risk of war will continue to increase. The only effective civil defence is that of taking direct action against nuclear madness — now."

More information on the Vancouver Civil Defence Information Centre from B.C. BLACKOUT, Box 65896, Sta. F, Vancouver B.C. V5N 5L3 (Reprinted from B.C. BLACKOUT No. 57).

## MARCHE 1981 POUR LE DESARMEMENT

Copenhague 21 juin · Paris 6 au 9 août



La paix se conquiert





# BREAD & ROSES

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day, March 8th, is a time for celebration, reflection and action for women the world over. All across the nation and in many others women will rally, picket, march and join other women in these activities. One of the most important aspects of IWD is its rallying force. Feminists of every persuasion, socialist, radical or liberal, have taken part in IWD events since the 60's when women reclaimed March 8th as their day for protest, celebration and, most importantly, solidarity. IWD has become a way of bringing some cohesion to a multifaceted movement whose members are of many different races, nationalities, ages, cultures and beliefs. It is difficult to imagine a more formidable task than to plan a strategy to ensure women's liberation.

The women's rights oriented groups, such as NOW, focus on legal and legislative solutions. Their attitude is that energy and enthusiasm are sufficient to achieve the liberation of women. Crises are seldom anticipated and treated with ad-hoc solutions.

The media probably regards this facet of the women's movement as the most respectable and representative. But gains made by this group have had negligible effect on the majority of women, although middle-class women did get concessions. "Equal pay for equal work" laws did help those women in the professions and in high paying industrial trades but the average wage gap between men and women is 58% and increasing. Working class women found the "career women" image distrustful and many black and immigrant women found the topical issues irrelevant.

To radical feminists the equal-rights mentality of NOW is insufficient to solve the problems of women. They believe that reform is ineffective and the social contradictions created by sexism require a revolution to be resolved.

Radical feminists stress the total character of women's oppression: personal, political, and cultural. It is important for women to reject male standards for female behaviour. An attempt has been made to create women's art and culture, to allow women to identify with other women rather than with a sexist society. Lesbianism is defended as a healthy and legitimate sexual choice. Unfortunately, for many women, their upbringing and cultural status prevented them from appreciating the radical point of view and the radical feminists are perhaps the least understood and most maligned of all feminists.

Socialist feminists attempted to focus on the contradictory demands on women as producers and reproducers in this society. They differ from women in left-wing parties by calling for an autonomous women's movement.

Socialist feminism distinguishes itself from radical feminism by emphasizing the importance of class oppression as well as sexual oppression. It also emphasizes the personal as political — the need for theory and action to grow out of one's personal experience of oppression. Many women involved with union activities were attracted to socialist feminism. But often these women found themselves trading their dreams and hopes for respectability and practicability and engaging in conventional politics and lobbying to the dismay of their sisters.

Radical and socialist feminism were more sensitive to women's particular oppression but they did not translate it easily into strategy. But to define a strategy to encompass all of women's problems is an exercise in futility.

While women in North America have made marginal gains, there are large sectors of women who have lost ground during the past decade and a half. The situation of third world and immigrant women warrants particular attention. In many parts of the world women are expected to participate in a technological workforce at starvation wages while their personal lives are governed by relationships arising from semi-feudal structures. This situation causes tremendous tension in their lives and makes women unexpectedly militant in their work place and in their demands for personal freedom. The Catholic church and colonialism have been particularly vicious in their tyranny over women's lives and over their relationships with men.

There is evidence that the women's movement is having an impact and is beginning to pose a threat to repressive and archaic attitudes and institutions, although not in a way or time frame that many North American feminists would expect or prefer. Women must come together on their own account to define and solve their particular problems.

The women's movement is aware that the causal relations occurring in a particular problem are not to be defined or solved by a general concept or law but must be determined specifically for each separate sphere.

However, the struggle for women's rights has never been an easy one. In the years to come, women will not only be faced with struggling against their particular oppression as women, but in a context of heightened tensions within class relations. Strength and unity in all segments of the women's movement will be required to meet this challenge.

Strength and unity does not mean a dogmatic strategy. By providing a bridge between various struggles and activities of different women's groups IWD provides strength through numbers and the opportunity to participate in all women's struggles for a day, and unity is achieved by demonstrating solidarity and support for our sister's struggles.

## Calendar

### Upcoming Events

#### Montreal

Gays and Order: Subversion or Reproduction?, March 15, 7:30 PM, Cafe Borduas, 1257 rue Amherst, Metro Beaudry.

Self-Management, March 29, 7:30

PM. The ABC's of Anarchism, May 10, 7:30 PM. For location, see above.

The Intellectuals and the State with Noam Chomsky and other speakers to be announced. June 5, 1982, time and location to be announced. Spon-

# Violence ... Non-Violence

by: Kenneth C. Hone

This article will deal with a subject which many anarchists may find contentious although it in many ways is basic to our philosophy. The subject is violence and our responses to it.

The turn of the century was a time of great upheaval politically; not only were old systems being remodelled, but whole new systems were being born. Anarchism was at the heart of the conflict from the 1880's to after the first world war.

It was at this time that anarchy became most irreversibly associated with chaos and violence. I have long felt (and friends tend to confirm) that the too frequent indiscriminate use of violence was the cause of the decimation of the anarchist cause due to the repression that resulted. It has, I think, generally been felt that we have been paying for fifty years for the folly of our grandparents.

This attitude has placed much emphasis for several generations now on non-violent anarchist programmes such as publishing, education and labour. This is very important and worthwhile. It mirrors the philosophy of 'Building a new society within the shell of the old'. Does this mean however that violence is never an alternative? Was the level of anarchist violence eighty years ago due to 'The times they were a changin'' or the times changing precisely because people cared enough to practice Propaganda of the Deed?

What of us today? Can we say that our impoverished press, our pitiful resources, our restricted numbers are really changing the world?

Our grandparents would be shocked at the world we inhabit. Police systems now exist which they could never have envisioned, computers, Interpol, etc. There are more restrictions on personal freedom than ever before, social insurance numbers, electronic surveillance in the workplace, credit systems, and capitalist propaganda spewing at us constantly from capitalist controlled radios and television.

We now have ecological anar-



chism, feminist anarchism, evolutionary anarchism, Christian anarchism but do we have anarchist anarchism? At a time when unarmed Polish demonstrators are gunned down in the streets and while the Red Brigades physically attack our age old enemies capital and the state, do too many anarchists sit comfortably by and decry violence?

I am not urging murder and pilage. There is a mutualist tendency in humans which makes us seek friendship not enmity, but as we now move into the eighties I as one anar-

chist do not want to be 'comfortable'. I do not want anyone else fighting my battles for me.

Perhaps it is time to stop making excuses for Bakunin and start listening to him again. "... Without that passion the revolutionary cause is impossible of realization, for there can be no revolution without a sweeping and passionate destruction, a salutary and fruitful destruction, since by means of such a destruction new worlds are born and come into existence."

## Unclassifieds

sored by the Anarchos Institute. For more information contact: Anarchos Institute, 3981 St. Laurent, 4th floor, Montreal, Canada, H2W 1Y5.

### Washington D.C.

March on Washington D.C.: A national action against U.S. intervention in El Salvador and Draft Registration on March 27. Persons wishing to participate in an anarchist contingent are encouraged to write the Libertarian Workers Group, c/o 287 Passaic Ave., Passaic, New Jersey 07055.

### Detroit

No Future?: Conference Against Nuclear War on March 5, 6 & 7 to be held at the Grinning Duck Club (SE corner of Willis and Third, just South of the Wayne State University campus). For further information about this conference and follow-up activities write: Nuke Fear, P.O. Box 02455, Detroit, Michigan 48202 or phone (313) 831-6800.



### International May Day:

International day of working class solidarity. Fan the flames of discontent where ever you are.

ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM Black Rose Books of Montreal is interested in publishing a new edition of Rudolph Rocker's book *Anarcho-Syndicalism* (the complete text, not the abridged version published by Freedom Press) and would like to locate a copy. If you have one or know where we could obtain one please write to: Black Rose Books, 3981 Blvd. St. Laurent, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 1Y5.

STRIKE! buttons (Black on Red) are available from the STRIKE! Collective, P.O. Box 284, Main Station, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6T7 for \$1.00 each. Quantities can be ordered on consignment. The funds from sales aid STRIKE's survival as a monthly newspaper.

S.R.A.F. Bulletin: The discussion bulletin of the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation has been revived. It is now published by Frontline, P.O. Box 21071, Washington, D.C. 20009. Subs. are \$6.00 for 6 issues to individuals (by voluntary donation) or \$12.00 to institutions with funded acquisition programmes.

May Day Disaster Fund Draw: 1st Prize: 2 matching Lopi wool jumpers hand-knitted in Orcadian "Magnus" pattern. 2nd and 3rd Prizes: Orcadian Food Hamper including a bottle of Highland Park malt whiskey. Other Prizes: Orcadian knitwear, Orcadian malt whiskey, book tokens and lots of unusual prizes.

The draw will be held at the May Day Party to be held at the Autonomy Club in London, England, on Saturday, May 1st, 1982. Prize winners will be notified by First Class Mail if not present.

The money-raised will be used to alleviate the enormous debts owed by Cienfuegos Press thereby insuring its continued survival if enough is raised. Tickets are available from STRIKE! for 50 cents each or from Cienfuegos Press, Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2B1, Scotland for 25p. NORTH AMERICAN ANARCHIST NETWORK: To participate send 50 copies of whatever you wish to share to NAAN, P.O. Box 18488, Denver, CO., 80218, USA. \$2-\$3 donation strongly encouraged. NAAN collates all submissions and mails them back out so that everyone receives a copy of everyone else's submission. We exercise no editorial control whatsoever. Deadlines are February 1st, May 1st, August 1st and November 1st.

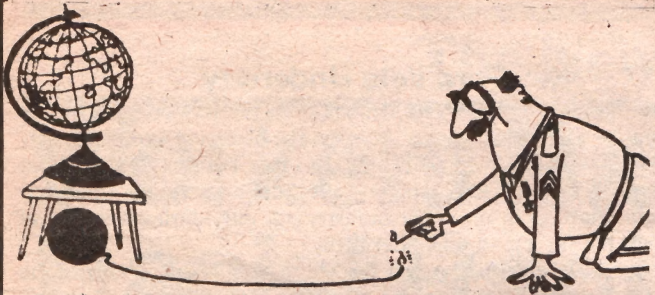
MARTYR WANTED: The League for Evolutionary Anarchism and Freedom is now accepting applications for a revolutionary martyr. Must be willing to be murdered by the state in a blatantly unjust manner so that we can grab alot of press coverage, public sympathy and lucrative contributions from liberals. Applicants with portfolios of good, revolutionary-sounding quotes which we can use for post-mortem publicity will be given top priority. To apply, send resume to L.E.A.F., P.O. Box 18488, Denver, CO., 80218, USA.

CHAOS: Journal of the Pagan-Anarchists. Articles in French, English, etc. Interested persons should write to: C.P. 95, Station Place D'Armes, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3E9

War Resisters International: Persons interested in forming a Canadian section should contact the above address.



# ON THE WAR FRONT



## Cure Mental Illness

by: Ivan Kalita

"It is the face of his own evil shadow that grins at Western man from the other side of the Iron Curtain." — C.G. Jung

Remember Yellow Rain? The good old boys at the State Dept. spent quite a bit of time and effort trying to convince us that the Evil Shadow was using chemical warfare in its struggle to dominate South East Asia and Afghanistan. Well, the British press tells us that the U.S. is now deploying chemical weapons in Britain. My own sources there tell me of having seen plants, off-limits to civilians, where they believe this stuff is manufactured. The difference, of course, is that the West's chemical weapons are defensive and for peaceful purposes only, while theirs are for aggression and war. By the way, does anyone also remember Agent Orange?

Now we hear Enders and Haig tell us of massacres of innocent civilians by the Evil Shadow's guerrilla forces in El Salvador. Interestingly enough, the State Dept. boys can tell us with certainty and precision the days, places and body counts of these enemy atrocities, while the facts pertaining to atrocities committed by government forces there are somehow always "not yet ascertained." Who does the ascertaining is anyone's guess.

Lately Reagan and Haig have been shedding bitter tears over the fate of Poland, now once again engulfed by the Evil Shadow. "Let Poland be Poland", they exclaim (with a little back up from whatever Hollywood has-beens they can muster) — that is, as long as Poland pays its bills. The first question the slogan brings to my mind is, when is Poland not Poland? (sounds like the beginning of a bad joke).

I think it is obvious that the relation of the West to its Evil Shadow in the Kremlin is the same, in certain respects, as that of any other physical body to its own shadow. One can go nowhere without the other. They inevitably make the same moves, maneuvers, and gyrations.

The only way they can avoid the truth of this from becoming too well known is to cloak their actions in such mutual darkness as to make it impossible to see the unity of motive and actions of the two. This they do, though every so often, such as now, one tries to blow the game by shining a spotlight on the other. This falls under the category of what our above-quoted friend Jung would call 'projection' — imputing one's own motives onto another, though basing it on some piece of truth.

So today, as yesterday, the neurotic warriors fight it out for control of the world's psyche. In doing so they invoke horrifying images of destruction from the unconscious, and make their nightmares ours. There can be only one therapy, one cure for this international mental illness — world revolution.

## No Hesitation Allowed

by: Mike Harris

A military board of inquiry has recommended the discharge of an air force officer who told a superior that he "might hesitate before following an order to 'press the button' launching a Titan missile. The source of Capt. James Kanak's hesitation was his contention that games playing was "a common and accepted component of missile crew duty." Kanak has appealed to federal court to stop the air force from discharging him.



# Libertarian Notes

## War is Likely in a Few Years

Three of four Americans say it is likely that the United States will become involved in a war in the next few years, according to an Associated Press/NBC News poll.

Seventy-six percent said it was either very likely or somewhat likely that the United States would become involved in a war in the next few years, an increase from 68 percent in September and October polls conducted by the two news organizations and 57 percent in the August poll.

According to the poll the respondents blamed their fear of war on the Reagan Administration's free-wheeling talk of the use of nuclear weapons to deter Soviet imperialism. As well respondents fingered the Administration's talk of armed intervention in Central America and the possible blockade of Cuba. The poll was released prior to the declaration of martial law in Poland.

This poll makes it clear that the majority of Americans are concerned about the prospects of a third imperialist war. A war without winners. The poll should also be a clear indication for those of us who are involved in the anti-militarist movement that real support for our activities can become significant in the years ahead, similar to the movement in western Europe.

For anarchists, however, we need to expand the narrow perspective of many concerned citizens to show that it's not simply Reaganism that poses the war threat, but also the imperialist nature of all forms of statism, and governmental bureaucracy.

## Exporting Repression

Argentina's military government, which has had considerable experience in making problem citizens disappear, is now in the business of exporting its repressive know-how. A 50-man Argentinian military mission is at work in El Salvador giving helpful hints on how to most effectively butcher rebellious citizenry. The Argentinians are working with the U.S. government in an effort to de-stabilize the Nicaraguan regime and also to ensure that El Salvador does not become "another Nicaragua." White House spokesperson David Gergen refused to confirm or deny whether the Argentinians are in El Salvador at the request or encouragement of the American government. When asked if the United States would engage in overt or covert action, or join with another nation to overthrow a government now in place Mr Gergen replied that "policy statements" have been made on the issue in the past and that he would not try to repeat them "off the top of my head." Maybe we can help him out — the answer is "anywhere, anytime."

## Like Father Like Son?

Considering their commitment to socialism as a "science" scientific socialist regimes have an inordinate amount of difficulty handling such a seemingly simple procedure as an orderly transfer of power. The changing of the guard under Communist rule is invariably accompanied by shoot outs, factional struggle and general chaos. But, at least one "scientific" regime is trying a novel method of avoiding the problem by setting up a family dynasty.

Kim Il-Sung, "beloved leader" of North Korea, is grooming his son, Kim Chong-Il, to step into his shoes as party general secretary. "Let everyone revere, worship and follow perpetually the benevolent leader, comrade Kim Chong-Il," read a leaflet recently dropped over the South Korea capital of Seoul as part of the deification campaign. According to a Korean academic who recently visited Pyongyang, Kim Chong-Il might actually have some popular support among

North Koreans—though not for the god-like qualities ascribed to North Korean leaders. "Ask North Korean people if they accept Kim Chong-Il" the academic reported, "and they say 'yes, we want to keep the situation stable and avoid a fight.'"

There have been some rumbles of discontent from China and the Soviet Union over the embarrassment of a son succeeding his father in a socialist state but, who knows, such embarrassment might turn emulation if it works out. It would be so much simpler, than having to work it out "scientifically."

## Out of the Woodwork

A recent trial in West Germany has revealed signs of a world-wide neo-nazi organization. One of the defendants in the trial of several members of the German Action Group, a neo-nazi organization, accused of a series of bombing and arson attacks, claimed that neo-nazi groups have extremely close ties both among themselves and with similar groups abroad. The defendant, Raymond Hoernle, also claimed that one of his co-defendants, Manfred Roeder, had "international stature" in the neo-nazi movement. Roeder's activities included extensive travel promote the creation of a 'Movement for the Freedom of the Reich' and the formation of a Reich government-in-exile. Roeder, who has a fondness for being called fuhrer, was also in constant touch with Canadian and U.S. neo-nazi groups and made numerous trips to the Middle East.

Evidence for such extensive links between fascist groups internationally is certainly not new and neither is police toleration of their activities as the trial also showed. Hoernle had been questioned several times about the actions of the German Action Group but the police did not take action until after 12 people died in a bomb attack at Munich's Oktoberfest beer festival; in October 1980.

## Buddy, Can You Spare a Tank?

Sweden has come up with a novel way to raise money for national defense—passing the hat. After a Soviet submarine ran aground on Sweden's coast near a top secret naval base there were worries that coastal defense might not be up to par. Several concerned citizens decided to take up a collection to help modernize the military, so far they have raised \$33,000. A retired citizen from Uppgrana donated \$850 and a ten year old schoolboy gave three weeks allowance to the fund. One of the soldiers who had been assigned to guard the grounded Soviet sub is donating \$1.65 a day from his salary and the money just keeps rolling in. Now if only the U.S. would base its defense spending on what it could get the public to cough up voluntarily. Can't you just see it? Bake sales for MX missiles, bingo for Trident subs. Who knows, they might even be able to top the \$33,000 raised by the Swedish!

## Duck! You Sucker

Pope John Paul 2 might have to take to wearing a target instead of a cross if things keep up the way reports coming out of Nigeria indicate. Police seized an armed man at a stadium where the Pope was scheduled to celebrate mass and in a separate incident three armed people were arrested at Kaduna airport, where the Pope had had a disastrous meeting with moslem leaders two days previously, just before they boarded a flight to Laos where the Pope was staying. As if all this weren't bad enough police even broke up a planned demonstration by Polish residents in Nigeria confiscating a Solidarity banner with the comment "We don't want any of that here." Maybe you should just stay at home Johnny.

## Bureaucrats

Continued from p.8  
most without pay — the bulk of the ILG's administrative and organizing staffs. And nearly all were immigrant workers!

As the years went on the racist leadership formed segregated locals for black and Hispanic members, all in attempt to stop them from developing union policy and structures that would better serve their needs. This was similar to a policy the officials of the United Garment Workers, etc. used against the large flow of Jewish and Italian workers earlier this century.

Similarly women workers are written off because they are "too busy with families" and come from "matriarchal families". So it is no wonder that the ILG's General Executive

Board and organizing staffs are disproportionately out of tune with a solid percentage of its membership. And it will remain that way until the rank-and-file begins to develop an independent movement — independent of the bureaucracy and aspiring bureaucrats — that would radically restructure the union and the policies that makes the ILG one of the more racist, sexist and dictatorial unions in North America.

The Needle Trades Workers Action Committee has been formed to help assist, develop, share experiences with rank-and-filers and bring together all needle trade workers who are interested in building militant movements within their respective unions.

The NTWAC can be contacted care of: Post Office Box 692, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10113.



## Subscribe To STRIKE!

**Individuals** — \$6.00 for one year (10 issues)  
— \$11.00 for two years (20 issues)  
— \$15.00 for three years (30 issues)

**Organizations** — \$12.00 for one year.

**Libraries** — \$12.00 for one year.

**Prisoners** — Free on request.

Make cheques and money orders payable to **STRIKE!** and send them to:

**STRIKE!**, P.O. Box 284, Main Station, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, L2R 6T7.







## Organizing Stifled

by: Mike Harris

Year after year International Ladies Garment Workers Union members hear that their membership is declining. They are told that this is due to run away shops from New York City's garment center to the South, Southwest, West Coast and overseas. Yet in many ILGWU shops conditions are no better than in unorganized sweatshops.

Being employed in the needle trades I'm told the effect of the shop conditions have on ILG members. The failure, lack of initiative and lack of concern by the bureaucracy is apparent in the garment center and in New Jersey. Any member will tell you that non-union sub-contracting is very much alive in "the center" (the common expression for NYC's 20 block garment district), in Chinatown or in New Jersey. Or that the union settled for less than a liveable income or that the union refuses to call a strike because of their historical "understanding" or contractual obligation that binds both the union and the bosses to take unsettled negotiations and grievances to arbitration. The same holds true on this score for clothing workers in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. In District 65-UAW needle trade locals we at least have the right to strike.

Therefore it comes as no surprise to read a sympathetic account in the *New York Times* (11/29/81) of the ILG's leaderships' plight to "save" the union. In reality the article gives us little insight into how the union is organizing to save itself. The article also fails to show how the union is

based on class collaboration, sweetheart contracts, corruption, racism and sexism and the inability, rather, the lack of desire to organize. These problems are not new to the ILGWU since the conservative social democratic leadership has merely been following a traditional pattern set since the 1920's.

However the article does present some informative bits of information on the ILG's concept of organizing. Given the fact that most garment shops are small, employing on the average 65 workers, one would think that the ILG bureaucracy would make greater attempts to organize such shops. On the contrary. According to the union's bureaucracy the smallness of each shop "means employers can easily intimidate workers when organizers come around... This profusion of employers, or organizing targets, makes organizing extremely difficult and time consuming."

Being employed in a shop of less than 65 workers I see little value in this argument. Also, to say that a union with a one-half billion treasury and welfare fund is no match for an employer of 65 workers is ludicrous. Even District 65-UAW, a union with only 4,150 needle trade members is willing to organize any sized shop, from 1 to 1,000 workers. The fact of the matter is that the ILG bureaucracy is really not interested in organizing.

The time-honoured method of organizing small shops in the center was that of rank-and-filers going out en masse to organize other shops. Workers were organized, usually by shop committees, to descend into a

garment shop and sign workers up right there on the spot, while picket lines of unionized workers surrounded the building downstairs, preventing supplies from entering the shop. That used to be done in shops of 2 and 3 workers.

But this, of course, would imply not only rank-and-file participation but control of not only organizing but union affairs as well. Naturally the concept of workers helping other workers is now alien to the ILG bureaucracy. The same holds true for rank-and-file democracy and control of the union. Rather, everything must be firmly controlled by those bureaucrats who are out of the shops (and have been for years) and who have little interest or in common with the membership. Yet the bureaucracy is more concerned with the plight of the bosses. For example, like making financial loans to ailing garment shops.

But it's not only a question of organizing the unorganized. It's also a matter of who controls the union. And not simply the internal structure, but the composition of its administrative bodies as well.

"About 90% of its [ILG] members are women [including] ... a substantial number of black and Hispanic workers. Yet the union — mirroring a problem in other unions — is led by white men." The rationale for this is that the bureaucracy has "... difficulty getting people out of the rank-and-file." Yet during the first three decades of the ILGWU's history rank-and-file members made up —

See Bureaucrats p.7

## Spring Will Be Ours!

Continued from p.1

and battered party, which may have lost up to half its membership in the last 18 months, must make some tough decisions and decide how to extricate itself from the embarrassment of being effectively suspended by the military. They must also cope with the question of how to return the shambles of Polish society to some semblance of "order."

The one thing that is clear at this time is that Solidarity will never be allowed to regain its former position. Wladyslaw Loranc, the chief of the State-run radio and television networks, has been quoted as saying that top party leaders now feel that signing the Gdansk Accords was a grave error that "made it easier for ... anti-socialist forces to gain massive support in the community of working people."

In 1980, of course, the party still felt it had a choice between outright repression and some form of negotiated settlement. Now it realizes that there is no middle ground, that its ability to rule is based on bayonets and bullets alone. But, the party was not the only one to learn this harsh

lesson. The workers of Poland now too have been forced to see that there can be no accommodation with the party. From now on Poland will be an armed camp and the choices will be clear to all — revolution, total and complete, or the living death of Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

### Terrible Price

The workers of Poland have paid a terrible price for this lesson. By failing to act decisively when the initiative was clearly theirs and the party-state was reeling, unsure even of its own army, they allowed the state to re-group its forces and reassert its domination of civil society. This failure to move against the party-state in the early days of the struggle must be weighed against the advantages of a 16-month long education in the fundamentals of freedom and self-managed revolt but the fact remains that by giving the party a respite when it was at its weakest they ensured that the final struggle will indeed be a fight to the death.

Both sides know the stakes and both sides know the consequences of defeat. The workers now stand alone.

The cracks opened in the monolith by previous worker insurrections, the ones that allowed KOR to survive, have been sealed shut and they will not be re-opened in the foreseeable future. The state is moving to intimidate the church into silence by threatening a mass roundup of activist priests. The stage is set for a return to the Stalinist wasteland. Yet the picture is not one of unending bleakness. For if winter comes, can spring be far behind?



## Labour Pains

### Key Ford Vote Underway

Workers employed by the Ford Motor Co. in the U.S. are now voting on the tentative agreement reached between the company and the leadership of the United Auto Workers (UAW) this past February 13. Without question the outcome will have a pivotal effect upon the course of labour-management relations in the entire industry not only during this critical contract year but for a long time afterwards.

Should the pact be ratified it will further shatter what remains of the rank and file unity derived from the tradition of wage parity among all workers at the Big Three automakers. Whereas the Chrysler deal of about a year ago created a two-tier structure of wages and benefits this tentative contract will, if approved, institute a three-tier differentiation. The resulting divisiveness will be very hard to overcome.

Furthermore, this agreement will remove U.S. Ford workers from being a positive factor should the termination of the contracts at GM and/or Chrysler this September involve strike action. Enormous pressure will also be exerted upon Ford workers and the UAW leadership in Canada to capitulate by following the U.S. lead as a result.

On these counts alone rejection is an absolute necessity for the defense of what has taken autoworkers decades to win. The actual terms of the tentative contract drive home this point further.

Monetarily alone the takeaways involve hundreds of millions of dollars. Included are a two year freeze on annual wage increases, cuts in Sunday bonuses and the withholding of Cost of Living Allowance increases for 9 months. Ford's ploys of a profit-sharing plan and an increase in life insurance benefits are a bad joke compared to these losses.

Increased job security is the UAW bureaucracy's justification for the concessions. However, the provisions allegedly guaranteeing this have holes in them big enough to drive a Ford truck through.

Ford's offer of a two year moratorium on plant closures in no way disallows it from reducing the number of employees in plants up till now being considered for closing to a skeleton workforce. The proposed guarantee of half a worker's regular income until age 62 in the absence of retirement or death for those with at least 15 years' seniority is deceptive. The vast majority of layoffs to come will only affect lower seniority workers.

Neither is there any guarantee of an eventual return to work for the 55,000 Ford workers presently unemployed. What's more the provision eliminating Paid Personal Holidays will wipe out thousands of existing jobs.

Above all else, the one billion dollars Ford will save in total will go to financing greater automatization and robotization of the production process very much to the detriment of job security. Younger workers will obviously be the fall guys.

Finally, the fact that the tentative contract gives the UAW more input into company decisions is no guarantee of anything positive. After all has Doug Fraser's having a seat on Chrysler's Board of Directors since 1979 done one bit of good for Chrysler's workers? Not in the least, as the last 2½ years have shown. Nor will the next 2½ years at stake in this contract vote by the American Ford rank and file benefit them if they give their approval.

### Japan robot kills a worker

TOKYO—Kenji Urada, 37, a repairman at a Japanese factory that makes automobile gears, was trying to fix a malfunctioning robot. The machine suddenly went wild and stabbed Urada in the back, killing him instantly.

"There has been a tendency to put aside the regulations in the labor standards law with these new machines," an official at the Labor Standards Bureau said. "The unfamiliarity of the workers also contributed to the accident."

Japan ranks No. 1 in the world in the use of industrial robots, with more than 50,000 units in operation to boost productivity.

### Labour Relations in Singapore

Among the exhibitors at a publishing conference held at the New York Hilton in November were Singapore printing companies seeking American business.

In response to a question by a United Electrical Union member on labour relations in his country, one of the Singapore representatives said, "We have a tripartite system made up of labor, management and the government that decides all labor disputes."

"What happens if workers don't like the decision and strike?" asked the U.E. member.

"There's severe punishment," the Singapore businessman told him. "There's a big fine and anyone who incites goes to jail."

It's the kind of "climate" that makes for happy runaway corporations. The average weekly pay for 1981 was \$56.89 for a six day work week.

### 'Shop' Portrays Life of Garment Workers

Through March those of you who live in the New York metro area can see a lively play about Jewish garment workers who fought against sweatshop conditions in NYC in the early part of this century. The play 'Shop' is appearing at the Folksbiene Playhouse on East 55th Street and tickets are \$10,8,6. Although the play is in Yiddish there is an English synopsis of the play.

"Shop" was written in 1926 during the midst of a general strike in NYC's garment center and the struggle for power in the ILGWU between the social democrats and the communists. It depicts the life of immigrant garment workers in a sweatshop. Yet the play isn't only about worker vs. boss, it also portrays the human aspect of wage slavery and ghetto life.

They play was written by H. Leivick, an underground revolutionary in Russia who spent four years at hard labor then was exiled to Siberia for his activities. He escaped from Siberia and came to the U.S., where he worked as a paper hanger.

All in all the play is outstanding and is a must to see, especially for those employed in the needle trades today.